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LIEUT.-COL. DE LA CHEROIS T. IRWIN,  
DOMINION INSPECTOR OF ARTILLERY.

Lieut.-Colonel Irwin joined the Royal Artillery at Shoeburyness in July, 1861. He was ordered to Halifax with the 10th Brigade on the occasion of the Trent affair in December, '61, accompanied his Battery to Montreal in March, '62, and was quartered there until 1865; then was stationed at Quebec until June, 1870, with the 3rd Brigade. Entered the Staff College, Sandhurst, as a student in January, 1871, and in July, 1872 was appointed Instructor in Gunnery at Kingston, Ont., under Lieut.-Col. French, the then Commandant of the Royal School of Gunnery. Upon the latter's appointment as Commandant of the N. W. Mounted Police in 1873, Lieut.-Col. Irwin was appointed to succeed him, and was also appointed Assistant Inspector of Artillery in December, 1874, and Inspector in January, 1876.

In May, 1878, Lieut.-Col. Irwin was ordered to Victoria, B.C., being commissioned to organize a Battery of Artillery, and to construct and arm such defensive batteries as were possible; this duty was successfully accomplished by September of the same year. Ten rifled guns loaned by the Imperial Navy being mounted in four earthen batteries commanding the entrances to Victoria and Esquimalt harbours, and a battery of artillerymen trained to their use.

In 1880, Lieut.-Col. Irwin accompanied "A" Battery to Quebec to relieve "B" Battery, and in 1882 he was transferred to Ottawa as Dominion Inspector of Artillery. Upon the formation of "A" and "B" Batteries into the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Irwin was appointed to its command in August, 1883.

In April, 1867, Lieut.-Col. Irwin married the oldest daughter of Robert Hamilton, Esq., Hamwood, Quebec.

## THE BENEFIT OF A WELL ORGANIZED MILITIA.

The London *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "The events of the last few months have taught the Americans a lesson regarding the value of a well organized and powerful Militia, which will not soon be forgotten. In New York and Pennsylvania the National Guard system is better developed than anywhere else in the country, and in both of those States it has been found to be the only barrier between an orderly and law-abiding people and temporary anarchy. Without the support of the Militia there would have been no ready means of enforcing the law, and the authority of the courts and all branches of the civil government would have been successfully defied. In Tennessee the Militia was found weak and ill prepared when the miners' insurrection came, and the result was a demoralizing and dangerous period of alarm and confusion in the whole district. Yet even in Tennessee a few companies of State troops were the main instrument in restoring order. It is very clear that the founders of the nation knew well what they did when a clause of the organic law of the land was so made the guarantee of the right to bear arms and a solemn declaration of the necessity of a well ordered Militia was incorporated in the Federal Constitution."

## IN QUEBEC: THE COLOURS OF THE 69th.

\* \* \* I rejoin my guide and we start again—to the English cathedral this time—a big, shabby, brown stone edifice, suggestive of a barn or a barracks, but with an exquisite altar window, depicting the Ascension, in lovely stained glass effects of velvety crimson and blue.

Two old flags—or, rather remnants of flags—suspended high on either side of the chancel rail fired me with enthusiasm. "They commemorate some glorious victory," I say, and my thoughts flash to Wolfe and Montcalm and the storeyed heights of Abraham. Tattered and torn, dusty and grimy to blackness, but sacred in the vision they conjure up the old stirring days when British arms and British heroes won Canada and held her forever.

I see it all—the early morning, the heights, the plains, the contending armies, the din of battle, the colours held high, torn, blackened, but triumphant ————

"Did you see dem flags?" says my guide as I climb into my caleche.

"Dey bee-longed to de 69th Regiment, and when dey had new nicer ones given to dem dey put dese in de cateedral. Dey was bigger, but the veesitors keep tearin' peeces to take away; der was hardly any left, so dey was put up high."

"Were they never under fire—in battle?" I ask, disappointedly.

"Maybe dey was. But when de soldiers got nice new flags dey didn't want old dirty ones," he answers.—*Faith Fenton, in the Empire.*

The Duke of Cambridge has awarded the army medal for meritorious service to Regimental Sergeant-Major G. A. Tenner, and to Troop Sergeant-Major W. Parsons, both lately serving in the Scots Greys.